

University Hall

Herrick Archives Number 088

A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION

1. Name

1. 1 Officially named "University Hall" by Board of Trustees on March 1, 1892.

1. 2 Alternate names noted:

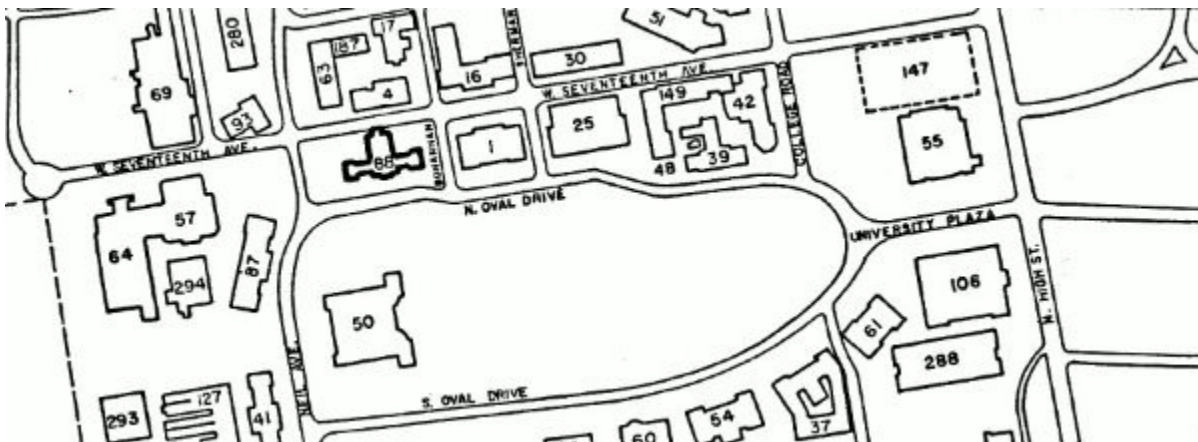
Variously referred to as "The College," "The College Building," the "College Edifice," and the "Main Building." The room later called the auditorium was long known as the "Chapel."

See Addenda Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6

2. Location

2. 1 Located at 216 North Oval Drive. See map below.

2. 2 For greater detail, see Sheets 96 and 97 in the book of campus maps in the University Archives.



For identification of other buildings shown, see Appendix A

3. General Description

3. 1 Type of construction:

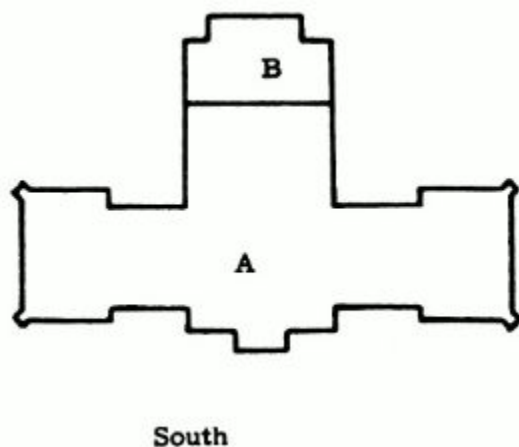
Wood frame and brick exterior.

3. 2 No. of stories:

Basement, and four stories.

3. 3 Increments of construction:

One addition to the "Chapel" wing. See sketch.



A--original building

B--addition

3. 4 May 1971 area of building as shown in inventory records of Division of Campus Planning:

87,349 sq. ft. gross; 53,977 sq. ft. net assignable

3. 5 Volume of building:

1,935,000 cubic feet (PP)

B. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - ORIGINAL BUILDING

1. On March 10, 1871 the Board of Trustees approved the plans and related documents prepared by J. Snyder of Akron and authorized the solicitation of bids by contractors.

2. Bids were received on July 7, 1871 (T).

3. On July 7, 1871 the Board of Trustees awarded the contract to Messrs. Kanmacher and Stark of Columbus "for furnishing all the materials, and finishing complete the College building"

4. Contract signed July 12, 1871 (Cope:38).

5. Beginning of work:

The Executive Committee reported on January 3, 1872 that the foundations had been laid and the rubble stone work done (T).

6. Completion and occupancy:

6. 1 Building opened September 17, 1873 (Cope:45). At that time, doors were not hung and much of the finishing woodwork was not completed (McC 1:18).

6. 2 President Orton reported that all work had been completed by January 7, 1874 (R 1874:670).

C. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION - ADDITION

1. On July 7, 1896 the Board of Trustees directed its Building Committee to solicit bids on the basis of the plans and related documents prepared by Yost & Packard.

2. Bids were received on August 14, 1896 (T).
3. On August 14, 1896 the Board of Trustees awarded the contract to F. H. Nichol and H. H. Carr under the firm name of Nichol and Carr.
4. Completion and occupancy:
 4. 1 Completed about November 1, 1896 (R 95-96:17).
 4. 2 Dedicated "fore part of December, 1896." (McC 1:142).

D. DEMOLITION

1. The Board of Trustees on June 4, 1971 approved plans for removal of the building. It was reported at the September 2, 1971 meeting that bids had been received on July 6, 1971 and the contract for demolition awarded to the Tom O'Rourke Wrecking Co. of Cincinnati at a contract price of \$37,345.
2. The contractor began demolition on August 23, 1971. The tower clock, stair rails and spindles, and other items from the interior of the building had been removed earlier by University workmen. Demolition was substantially completed by September 30, 1971 (author's observations).

See Addendum No. 1

E. COST

1. Original contract with Kanmacher and Stark was for \$112,450 (T 7/7/71). Note: In its annual report made on January 3, 1872, the Executive Committee reported the amount as \$112,484 (Handwritten minute book p. 59), and McCracken used this figure (McC 1: 16).
2. At another point, McCracken (1:8A) reported the cost of the original building at \$114,290 and the cost of the addition at \$23,952 for a total of \$138,242.

At another point, McCracken (1:142) reports the cost of the Chapel addition at \$25,974.15.

3. The 1909-10 Business Office report, the first one in the series, listed this building at \$110,000. Subsequent minor additions brought the total to \$153,967.02 as of June 30, 1959, and there were no later changes.

F. MISCELLANEOUS

1. The original building was located at the north edge of an old orchard facing the old Neil residence (McC 1:16) which stood approximately at the location of the present Main Library (Building 050).
2. The base courses, window sills, and window and door trim were made of Berea sandstone, which was delivered in large blocks to a point near Mirror Lake where it was sawn into the shapes and sizes required (McC 1:16).
3. The bricks used in the building were made in kilns north of the building (in front of the building at 230 West 17th Avenue) from clay dug south of Woodruff Avenue in the general vicinity of the present Chemical Engineering Building (McC 1:16).
4. Gas was made from coal in a building back of University Hall. Since this gas plant was not completed until November 1874, gas for use in laboratories the first year was carried on the backs of students a distance of three miles in a 6-8 cubic foot rubber bag (McC 1:18).
5. Lighting was by coal oil (kerosene) lamps until December 1874 and then by gas until 1884 (McC 1:8A)

6. Water for the building originally came from cisterns supplied by a dug well and rainfall. Water was pumped from these cisterns to wooden tanks in the attic. In the 1880's a shallow well was dug near Mirror Lake and a windmill installed, but this was not successful (McC 1:18A).
7. At first there were four professors living in the building, and the east end of the first floor was a student dormitory, called "Purgatory." There was a "commons" or dining room in the east end of the basement (McC 1:18).
8. On November 11, 1885 the Board employed a professor of veterinary science (Dr. H. J. Detmers) and authorized the fitting up of the east basement as a veterinary museum.
9. The library of the College was housed in University Hall until it moved to Orton Hall (Building 060) in 1893.
10. The University Administrative offices were in University Hall until the present Administration Building (Building 001) was completed in 1924.
11. The tower clock was presented by the class of 1903 (T 2/3/03, 4/1/03, and 5/5/03).
12. Installation of fire escapes was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 3, 1910.
13. On May 28, 1912 the Board of Trustees approved plans for a new front entrance and plaza. The cluster lights were installed during the summer (L 9/17/12).
14. The first U. S. Post Office opened in the east basement about May 1, 1928 (T 3/12/28).
15. When the building was only 10 years old, Professors Robinson and McFarland and architect Harris were asked to investigate the safety of the cupola (T 11/4/83). In 1886 the tower was rebuilt (T 7/6/86).
16. In 1913 bricks fell from the tower and it later was rebuilt again (McC 2:267).
17. A windstorm on August 12, 1918 tore off the turret at the northeast corner of the building (L 8/14/18).
18. In the spring of 1929 the tower was badly damaged by a storm and had to be rebuilt. (It has not been determined whether this is the same rebuilding referred to in Item 16 above.)
19. In the spring of 1968 a bulging floor on the fourth floor of the north wing led to a study by Jones-Stuckey Ltd., a firm of professional engineers. Their report stated that there was "sufficient doubt on the structural integrity of the north wing to consider it unsafe. " The north wing was immediately abandoned, and on May 9, 1968 the Board of Trustees instructed the administrative officials of the University "to move toward the abandonment of the entire University Hall facility-" (T)

G. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

X 2378
X 2490
X 7647

2. Others:

McC 1: 17
M 21: 19 (October 1929)

John H. Herrick

April 19, 1972

ADDENDUM NO. 1Demolition

1. Bids for the demolition of the building were taken on July 6, 1971 (T).
2. The Board of Trustees on September 2, 1971 awarded the demolition contract to William O'Rourke Wrecking Co. for \$37,345.
3. The demolition was substantially completed by the end of September 1971, but clean-up operations extended into the next month.

John H. Herrick
April 2, 1973

ADDENDUM NO. 2Alternate Name

This building is designated "Administration Building" on some old post cards.

John H. Herrick
December 3, 1975

ADDENDUM NO. 3

References to this building as the "University Building" and "Varsity Hall" have been noted.

John H. Herrick
March 16, 1977

ADDENDUM NO. 4

This building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 16, 1970.

John H. Herrick
August 10, 1977

ADDENDUM NO. 5

Inspection of old campus maps reveals the following additional names for this building:

University Hall (Executive Offices)
Executive Offices, University Hall

John H. Herrick
November 13, 1979

ADDENDUM NO. 6

A picture postcard (701/U58/00/06) in the Columbus Circulating Visuals Collection in the Columbus Public Library shows this building with the caption "Town Hall, O.S.U., Columbus, Ohio".

John H. Herrick
November 12, 1987